

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 9, beginning at line 17, with the following:

As shown, generally in FIG. 6, when the wedge 34 is moved into the endplate 12, 14, the wedge 34 cams the lateral portions 18 outwardly from a contracted position 57 to an expanded position 58. In the contracted position 57, the axial end surface 16 and the lateral widths of the prosthesis 10 and the endplate 12, 14 are narrower than the lateral width of a vertebral body 54. In the expanded position 58, the lateral portions 18 are disposed such that the axial end surface 16 and the lateral widths of the prosthesis 10 and the endplate 12, 14 have lateral widths that are larger in the contracted position 57, and the axial end surface 16 is configured for supporting and abutting the periphery 56 of the body 54, preferably at least at the lateral sides ~~50~~ 51 thereof. The endplates 12, 14 and its axial end surface 16 preferably also support the body periphery 56 at the posterior and anterior sides as well, or along a portion thereof. In the expanded position 58, the axial end surface 16 has an outer edge portion that generally corresponds to the periphery 56 of the vertebral body 54. Preferably, in the expanded position 58 the lateral portions 18 are configured for abutting and supporting at least about 50% of the periphery 56 of the body 54, more preferably at least about 60%, and most preferably at least about 75%, and preferably less than about 95%. One embodiment is configured for abutting and supporting between about 75% and 90%, and preferably does not substantially extend laterally or posteriorly beyond the body endplate periphery 56.

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, beginning at line 25, with the following:

The preferred lateral width of the prosthesis 10 is obtained when the endplates 12, 14 are wide enough to contact and support the lateral sides ~~50~~ 51 of the vertebral body 54, where the bone is stiffer, which improves the longevity of the implantation as the bone is better able to support weight along its outer edges. When this width is obtained, the gripping portions 24 preferably also have extended into the softer bone at the interior of the vertebral body faces, gripping them to inhibit or prevent displacement of the implanted prosthesis 10.